


Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 7f
July 19, 2012

TO: Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: Renewal of the International Charter School's Charter by the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education

The charter of the International Charter School (ICS) expires at the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year. In accordance with the Board of Regents' Regulations Governing Public Charter Schools C-4-3, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) coordinated the process of evaluating ICS's performance over the past two years to determine the merits of charter renewal (the school was given a 3-year extension to their charter in 2010).

Review Process

- RIDE's rigorous evaluation of charter school performance is guided by three questions:
 - Is the school's educational program an academic success?
 - Is the school providing the appropriate conditions for academic success?
 - Is the school a viable organization?

The first portion of the review – is the school's educational program an academic success? – considers all relevant student outcome measures, including Math and ELA NECAP performance, IDEA SPP indicators, federal Adequate Yearly Progress designations, and, if applicable, ACCESS proficiency and graduation rates.

The second portion of the review – is the school providing the appropriate conditions for success? – gauges the quality of instructional leadership, classroom instruction, and curriculum development and implementation at each school relative to the standards set forth in the Board of Regent's Basic Education Program (BEP). Evidence for this portion of the review is gathered through a three-day site visit and thorough document review.

The third portion of the review – is the school a viable organization? – considers whether or not schools are using public funds responsibly and appropriately. RIDE staff reviews each school’s financial audits over the course of the charter term as well as all other relevant documentation on the school’s compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

- The school was required to complete a renewal application. This application provides an opportunity: (1) to present any important new or supplemental information pertaining to the above guiding questions, to enable a more comprehensive assessment of school performance; and (2) to articulate the school’s strategies and capacities for sustaining success and continuing to improve over the next charter term.

Key Findings

- International Charter School’s educational program has been successful. The school has consistently matched their sending districts and similar schools in reading and has consistently outperformed their sending districts in math. [See Attachment 1]. The school’s student growth percentiles (SGP) as reflected in Rhode Island’s Growth Model show above average student growth [See Attachment 2].
- ICS is providing many of the key appropriate conditions for success. Our review indicates that the school has many of the internal systems and structures to measurably improve achievement of its students:
 - Overall, the visit team found the ICS’s administrative leadership to be strong. The School Director is focused on student learning and engages in reflective practices that reinforce that focus. The school’s leadership has developed a clear instructional philosophy that was consistently implemented as observed;
 - The school exceeds the standard in the following areas: 1) family involvement and supports which includes ensuring that all family communications are published in Portuguese, Spanish and English; and 2) exemplary use of common planning time for teachers; and
 - The visit team found the following areas in need of improvement: 1) the board’s process for establishing standards for student learning and continuous improvement evaluation of the school leader; 2) full alignment to the NECAP GLEs.

- The FY2011 audit of International Charter School's financials had one deficiency that was considered to be a material weakness related to the time and effort reporting requirements for Title I funding. International Charter School's response to this finding provided helpful context to describe the cause of the failure of their existing internal controls. RIDE is confident that the necessary corrective actions have been taken and that there is little risk of continued material deficiencies.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education move to renew the charter of the International Charter School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the attached renewed Charter from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2017-2018 school year. To be eligible for future charter renewal, the school must demonstrate overall success by:

- **attaining student achievement goals as defined by the Charter Performance Review Handbook;**
- **demonstrating the management and leadership necessary to establish a thriving, financially viable charter public school as defined by the organizational performance goals in the Charter Performance Review Handbook; and**
- **ensuring that all operational elements of the school meet statutory and regulatory guidelines.**

#

Attachment 1:

Student Performance Relative to Sending District and Similar Schools

International Charter School			
		2009-2010 TcY	2010-2011 TcY
Proficiency Level	Reading	57%	63%
	Math	50%	58%
1.1 Sending District	Reading	Typical	Typical
	Math	Above Typical	Above Typical
1.2 Similar Schools	Reading	Typical	Typical
	Math	Typical	Typical
1.3 Growth	Reading	N/A	Above Typical
	Math	N/A	Above Typical
1.5 AYP		Met	Met

Proficiency Level = ICS School Proficiency Levels

Sending District = A weighted average of a school's sending district(s)' proficiency levels. ICS draws students from statewide.

Similar Schools = An estimate of the proficiency level of Rhode Island schools with similar numbers of ELL, SPED, and FRPL students as ICS.

Please see *Charter Performance Handbook* for explanation of Sending District and Similar School measurements.

Appendix 2.1

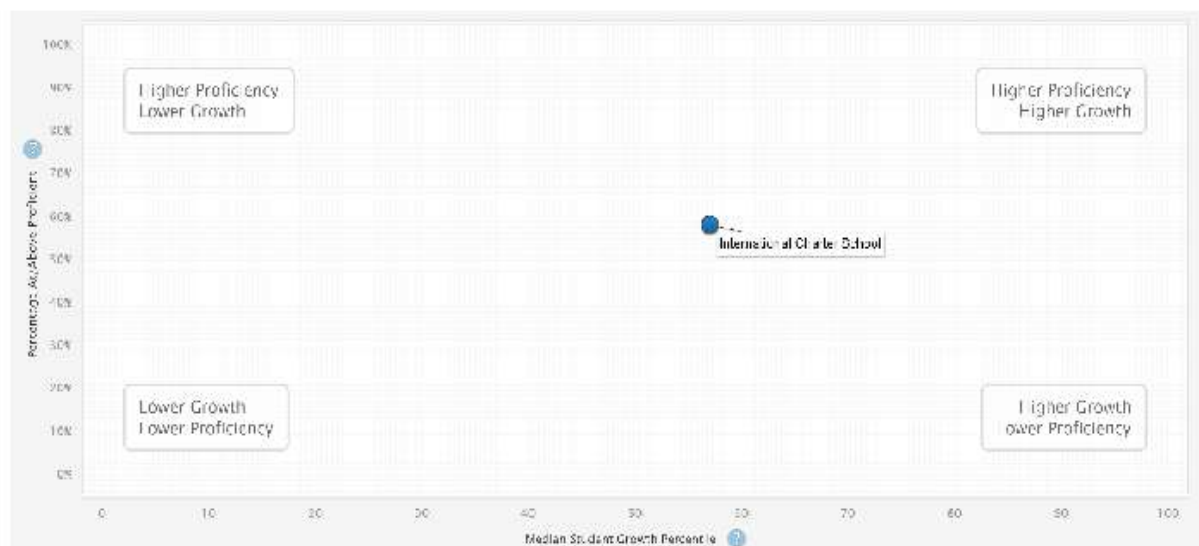
Student Growth Model—Math



Rhode Island Growth Model

2012 International Charter, By School

Math



Interact and explore data at
[Rhode Island Growth Model](#)

Appendix 2.2

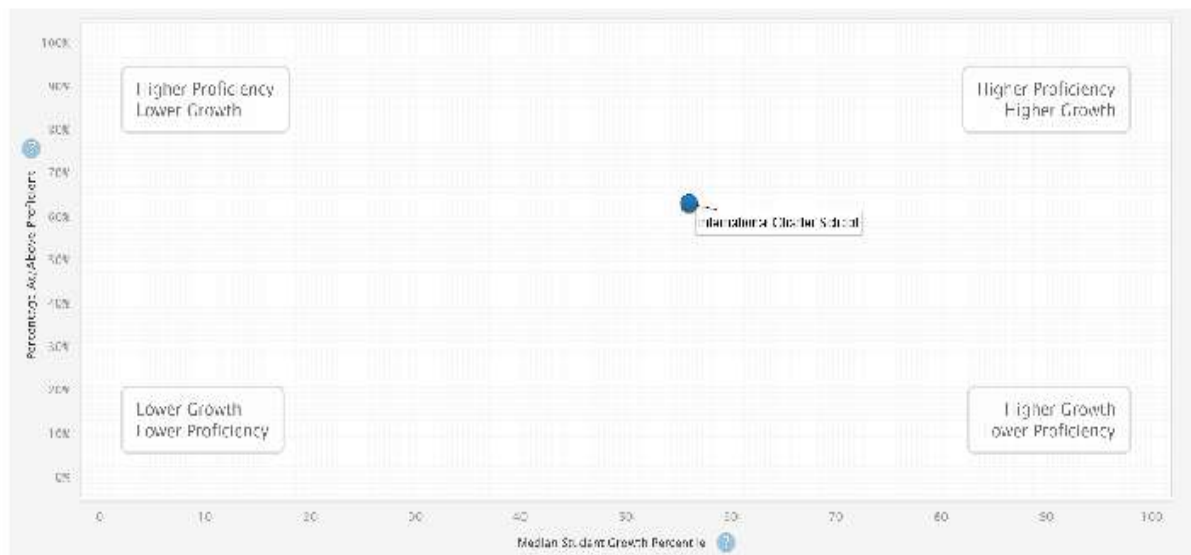
Student Growth Model—Reading



Rhode Island Growth Model

2012 International Charter, By School

Reading



Interact and explore data at
[Rhode Island Growth Model](#)